

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY**

Meeting Date: 9-21-05

Division: Growth Management

Bulk Item: Yes X No

Department:

Staff Contact Person: Matt Van Ess

AGENDA ITEM WORDING:

Approval of grant funding from Florida Department of Environmental Protection for removal of Invasive Exotic Plants on Monroe County conservation lands using invasive exotic plant technicians.

ITEM BACKGROUND:

Grant funding from Florida Department of Environmental Protection (Bureau of Invasive Plant Management) to remove invasive exotic plant species from County owned lands. Project will use qualified invasive exotic plant technicians to work on property owned by the Board of County Commissioners and the Monroe County Land Authority and managed for conservation. Oversight and coordination of all work will be done by the Land Steward. County in kind match will be provided through time from the Land Steward and purchase and use of materials to support the project.

PREVIOUS RELEVANT BOCC ACTION:

NA

CONTRACT/AGREEMENT CHANGES:

NA

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS:

Approval

TOTAL COST: \$57,600

BUDGETED: Yes X No

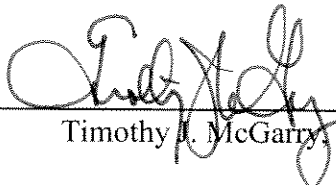
COST TO COUNTY: \$0

SOURCE OF FUNDS: FDEP

REVENUE PRODUCING: Yes No X **AMOUNT PER MONTH** **Year**

APPROVED BY: County Atty X OMB/Purchasing X Risk Management X

DIVISION DIRECTOR APPROVAL:


Timothy J. McGarry, AICP

DOCUMENTATION: Included X Not Required

DISPOSITION:

AGENDA ITEM #

MONROE COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

CONTRACT SUMMARY

Contract with: FDEP Contract #PL 029
 Effective Date: _____
 Expiration Date: _____

Contract Purpose/Description:

Removal of Invasive Exotic Plants on Monroe County Conservation Lands

Contract Manager: Matt Van Ess 2511 Growth Management/ #11
 (Name) (Ext.) (Department/Stop #)

for BOCC meeting on Sept. 21, 2005 Agenda Deadline: September 6, 2005

CONTRACT COSTS

Total Dollar Value of Contract: \$ 57,600 Current Year Portion: \$ 0
 Budgeted? Yes ☒ No ☐ Account Codes: _____
 Grant: \$ 57,600 _____
 County Match: \$ 31,577 / InKind _____

ADDITIONAL COSTS

Estimated Ongoing Costs: \$ _____/yr For: _____
 (Not included in dollar value above) (eg. maintenance, utilities, janitorial, salaries, etc.)

CONTRACT REVIEW

	Date In	Changes Needed	Reviewer	Date Out
Division Director	<u>8-31-05</u>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<u>[Signature]</u>	<u>8-31-05</u>
Risk Management	<u>8-15-05</u>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<u>M. Slane</u>	<u>8-15-05</u>
O.M.B./Purchasing	<u>8-15-05</u>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<u>Sheila A. Barker</u>	<u>8-18-05</u>
County Attorney	<u>8/11/05</u>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<u>S. Both</u>	<u>8/11/05</u>

Comments: _____

TASK ASSIGNMENT NOTIFICATION FORM
DEP CONTRACT NO. PL029

Task Assignment Number: FK-056

Contractor Name: Monroe County

DEP Contract Manager/Telephone: Greg Jubinsky (850) 245-2809

Date: July 26, 2005

Contractor's Contract Manager/Tel: Matt Van Ess (305) 852-2511

DEP Site Manager/Telephone: Jackie Smith (561) 722-2479

Project Title: Monroe County Invasive Exotic Plant Control Technicians

Task Description and Payment Schedule: Exhibit 1 describes the scope of work for this project. The Contractor is not authorized to perform work on any additional sites until such time as the DEP and the Contractor have fully executed a Change Order for said additional work. Any work performed by the Contractor contrary to this Task Assignment shall be at the Contractors expense. The Contractor is authorized to subcontract this project.

Deliverables: This Task is for reimbursement for labor cost for exotic plant control activities, as describes in Exhibit 1, on public conservation lands in Monroe County. Contractor shall achieve 95% control or greater on treated exotics. All requests for reimbursement will be submitted with Daily Progress Reports as described in Exhibit 1.

Due Date: June 15, 2006

Cost Reimbursement Task Assignment (Not-to-Exceed) Amount: \$57,600.00

Invoicing Frequency: Monthly

Funding Information:

Org Code	EO	Fund/FID	Category	YR	Obj Code	CSFA No.	Rec Type	Activ Code	Grant No.	Module	Project No.	Amount
3710-2800-222	Q7		102334	05-06	139904						29FK056	\$57,600.00

MONROE COUNTY

Contract Manager:
(or designee)

Date:

MONROE COUNTY ATTORNEY

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Suzanne A. Hutton
SUZANNE A. HUTTON
ASSISTANT COUNTY ATTORNEY

Date:

FL DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Contract Manager:

Date:

Cost Center:

Date:

Bureau Chief:

Date:

Division of State lands:

cc: Gwenn Godfrey, Contracts Office (MS93)
Contracts Disbursements Section (MS78) - 2 Copies

TASK ASSIGNMENT RESPONSIBILITIES

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE CONTRACTOR:

1. Upon full execution of the Task Assignment, the Contractor will coordinate with the DEP Site Manager to establish a mutually agreeable work schedule.
2. A Ground Crew Supervisor, employed by the Contractor, will be present at all times when work on the site is underway;
3. Ground Crew Supervisors will be responsible for all control activities and safety on project sites. The Ground Crew Supervisor will assure contract crews are knowledgeable of, and remain within property and treatment boundaries. Every effort shall be made by the Contractor to avoid damage to native vegetation and wildlife;
4. Ground Crew Supervisors will be pesticide applicators possessing current certification by the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS) in the Forestry or Right-of-Way categories. A copy of each supervisor's FDACS certification will be provided to the DEP Site Manager prior to initiation of on-site supervisory duties;
5. The Ground Crew Supervisor may supervise a maximum of eight (8) field employees at any given time, unless otherwise noted in the Task Assignment;
6. The Ground Crew Supervisor shall be responsible for the collection, recording, and timely submission of all data and reports required. At weekly intervals and at the completion of initial treatments and site reassessment, a complete report will be submitted to the Site Manager detailing sites treated, number and size of plants killed, and type of treatment used. This data will be recorded on the DEP "Daily Progress Report Form".
7. The Contractor will strictly adhere to all herbicide label application, precautionary, and safety statements;
8. All control efforts (except cogon grass treatment) shall be at least 95% effective in preventing re-sprout of treated target vegetation. If 95% kill rate is not achieved for any area of the project after two months following project completion, one additional thorough treatment of the plant species listed under "Project Goals" in the project area will be the responsibility of the Contractor at no cost to the DEP;
9. Cogon grass treatments shall be 100% effective in killing above ground portions (top kill) of target vegetation. If 100% top kill rate is not achieved for any area of the project after 30 days following project completion, one additional thorough treatment of the plant species listed under "Project Goals" in the project area will be the responsibility of the Contractor at no cost to the DEP;
10. The Contractor shall forward an original invoice along with all corresponding Daily Progress Report Forms, completed and approved, to the Bureau of Invasive Plant Management, 3915 Commonwealth Boulevard, MS 710, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-3000 within ten (10) working days of work completion;

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE DEP SITE MANAGER:

1. The Site Manager reserves the right to inspect, at any time, the Contractor's procedure, spray system(s), spray solution(s), and other ancillary equipment, and to approve operating personnel. Inspection, however, will not relieve the Contractor of any obligations or responsibilities nor will it transfer any liability to the lands listed under "Project Location".
2. No additional work can be added to this Task Assignment without a fully executed Change Order. Additional work includes additional treatment areas or change in treatment methodology.
3. The site management agency authorizes Bureau of Invasive Plant Management staff to approve invoice payments of all funds encumbered under this Task Assignment. Payment will be approved only for that work approved by the Site Manager. A copy of the approved invoice will be forwarded to the site management agency.

Exhibit 1

Project Title: Exotic Plant Control Technicians,
Unincorporated Monroe County Conservation Lands

Working Group: Florida Keys Invasive Exotic Plant Working Group

Site Manager: Matt Van Ess
Monroe County Land Steward
Growth Management Division
2798 Overseas Highway
Marathon, Florida 33050-2227
phone: (305) 852-2511
cell: (305) 304-4442
email: vaness-matt@monroecounty-fl.gov

Method of Control: Cost reimbursement

Project Goals: The project goal is the eradication of non-native invasive plants from 346 acres of publicly-owned conservation lands in unincorporated Monroe County. This will be accomplished by employing two exotic plant control technicians to treat non-native invasive plants on County conservation lands.

The most common invasive exotic plant species encountered on these lands and their FLEPPC Category ranking are Brazilian pepper (I - *Schinus terebithifolius*), beach naupaka (I - *Scaevola sericea*), bischofia (I - *Bischofia javanica*), seaside mahoe (I - *Thespesia populnea*), mahoe (II - *Hibiscus tiliaceus*), latherleaf (I - *Colubrina asiatica*), lantana (I - *Lantana camara*), oyster plant (I - *Tradescantia spathacea*), woman's tongue (I - *Albizia lebbek*), Australian pine (I, II - *Casuarina* spp.), castor bean (II - *Ricinus communis*), lead tree (II - *Leucaena leucocephala*), bowstring hemp (II - *Sansevieria hyacinthoides*), wedelia (II - *Wedelia trilobata*), pothos (II - *Epipremnum pinnatum*), Guinea grass (II - *Panicum maximum*), and life plant (II - *Kalanchoe pinnata*). In addition, any other FLEPPC listed species found on the conservation lands will be removed.

One other species, Night-blooming cactus (*Hylocereus undatus*), will also be removed although it is not listed with FLEPPC. This plant has become a problem in some conservation lands where it was likely introduced from discarded landscape debris or persists from an abandoned homestead.

Project Location: Monroe County, as either the Board of County Commissioners or the Land Authority, owns scattered conservation lands throughout the Florida Keys. A total of 707 separate parcels on eight keys have been selected for eradication of non-native plants by developed effective control methods. Most individual parcels are only 0.1 acre in size, but many are contiguous and combine to form much larger management units indicated on the accompanying zoning maps. All properties are public lands that Monroe County intends to manage in perpetuity for conservation and natural resource protection. The properties selected for management under this proposal are a subset of all the conservation lands owned by Monroe

Exhibit 1

County.

The 346 acres proposed for invasive plant eradication for this project encompass the range of major upland habitats within the Florida Keys. Represented in these conservation lands are coastal beaches, buttonwood associations, rockland and maritime hammocks, and pine rockland ranging in condition from severely disturbed to pristine. These areas provide habitat and resources for a myriad of wildlife, resident and migratory birds, and endemic plant species. The non-native plants that invade these areas decrease habitat value and lower biodiversity. Just a few of the state and federally listed endangered and threatened species of animals and plants that utilize these habitats include: green turtles (*Chelonia mydas*), eastern indigo snake (*Drymarchon corais couperi*), key mud turtle (*Kinosternon baurii*), piping plover (*Charadrius melodus*), white-crowned pigeon (*Columba leucocephala*), Key Largo cotton mouse (*Peromyscus gossypinus allapaticola*), Lower Keys rabbit (*Sylvilagus palustris hefneri*), Key deer (*Odocoileus virginianus clavium*), Blodgett's wild mercury (*Argythamnia blodgettii*), locustberry (*Byrsonima lucida*), silver palm (*Coccothrinax argentata*), and Garber's spurge (*Chamaesyce garberi*).

Project Description: This project will employ two Monroe County exotic plant control technicians to treat non-native invasive plants on Monroe County conservation lands. The duration of the project is scheduled for from 1 July 2005 to 1 June 2006. However, it is envisioned that most of the work will occur for eight months from October to June based on weather. The exotic plant control technicians will be temporary grant employees of Monroe County for this period, and will be provided all necessary training, personal protective equipment, first aid supplies, small equipment, a vehicle, and administrative support. The technicians will eradicate woody and herbaceous non-native plants from designated conservation lands under the direction of the Monroe County Land Steward. The Land Steward will arrange for and/or conduct training, as well as supervise and schedule the work of the technicians on the various sites. Training will consist of instruction in plant identification, herbicide handling and application techniques, safe chainsaw use and maintenance, and the proper use of PPE.

Management plans have been prepared for 31 acres (151 parcels) of this proposal's 707 parcels as part of the FCT grant covenant requirements that apply to them. The acreage represents 11% of the 346 acres presently proposed for exotic plant eradication. Much of the remaining 315 acres is contiguous to the lands for which plans have been written, and because the habitat type as well as the non-native species are similar, these plans will serve as guides for management of the conservation lands proposed in this application.

Exhibit 1

Proposed Budget: The proposed budget for the eight-month project duration is as follows:

Salaries

\$57,600 90 technician hours per week for 32 weeks @ \$16-\$20.00 hourly rate
(\$16 to start, \$20 if obtains license)

In Kind Matches

PROJECT ADMINISTRATION

- \$13,239 (10 hours per week for 32 weeks @ \$28.73 hourly rate plus approximately 44% in benefits)

HERBICIDES

- \$4,262 (192 mixed gallons of Garlon 4 at 20% concentration in Impel @ \$22.20/mixed gallon)
- \$668 (288 mixed gallons of Roundup Pro at 5% concentration in water @ \$2.32/mixed gallon)

SUPPLIES & EQUIPMENT

- \$400 (sprayers, gloves, eye protection, chainsaws, chaps)

VEHICLE

- \$13,008 (one pickup truck for 960 hours @ \$13.55/hour)

Total In Kind Match: \$ 31,577 (35% In Kind Match)

PROJECT TOTAL: \$ 89,177

Work Specifications: Work performance will consist of furnishing all labor, herbicides, diluents, small equipment, transportation, spray equipment, and performing all operations necessary to control the exotic plants listed under "Project Goals" using proven techniques on the individual species. If heavy equipment (bucket truck, dump truck, *etc.*) or a chipper is required for some tasks, the equipment will be provided as an in-kind match by Monroe County Division of Public Works, or in partnership with other land managers.

The exotic plant control technicians shall be responsible for maintaining a daily work log that will record date, name of site, and hours of work along with other data that will be submitted to the Land Steward at the end of each week. Monroe County will submit monthly invoices to the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP), Bureau of Invasive Plants, for reimbursement for exotic plant control activities based on the work logs.

Only exotic plant species listed under "Project Goals" will be treated according to developed effective control techniques. Depending upon the non-native species treated and the type of habitat, plants can be hand-pulled, treated in place and left standing, cut down and removed from site, or cut and piled or chipped on site. Decisions regarding specific plant treatment methods on each site will be made by the Land Steward. Treating vegetation in place and allowing it to

Exhibit 1

decompose *in situ* is cost effective and biologically sound except in habitats where fuel loading may be a concern, where excessive mulching would preclude native seedling recruitment or negatively affect wildlife, or where falling trees could pose a hazard to roads or structures. Areas from which exotic plants are removed are expected to mostly revegetate naturally. No artificial seeding or revegetation with natives is anticipated to be required. If severely degraded sites with distant native seed sources, however, recover very slowly, planting of natives will be considered with funds from Monroe County's Environmental Land Management and Restoration Fund, or with donations and volunteer assistance.

Every effort shall be made by the exotic plant control technicians to avoid damaging native vegetation or disturbing wildlife. The technicians will abide by all herbicide label application, precautionary, safety, cleaning, and disposal information. Specimen labels and MSDS information for all chemicals used will be kept with the chemicals, and technicians shall be provided with first aid kits and emergency contact numbers for their work in the field.

Data Collection: The exotic plant control technicians will be responsible for conducting field work and keeping daily work logs. Work logs will record date, morning and afternoon weather conditions, name of site, specific location on site, hours of work, species treated, estimates of species abundance in each work location, treatment method, herbicide, concentration, and amount applied. Logs will be submitted weekly to the Monroe County Land Steward for entry as spatial information with attributes into a GIS database to track management activities on all county-owned conservation lands.

Public Education/Outreach: Exotic pest plants have been treated by volunteers of The Nature Conservancy's (TNC) Green Sweep program on 12 of the sites listed for management in this proposal. The Green Sweep program has been very effective in fostering awareness of the invasive exotic plant problem in the Florida Keys, and recruiting volunteers to help in eradication efforts. The Monroe County Land Steward will work with the Green Sweep program's coordinator for continued public education and volunteer exotic plant eradication efforts throughout the Florida Keys. In addition, collaborative efforts will continue with TNC and the state land managers in the development of TNC's new Natural Area Neighbors program to target specific neighborhoods with natural areas.

Project Time Frame: The project will entail initial treatment of exotic plants on the conservation lands, beginning as soon as funding is available. Subsequent follow up treatments of exotics will be done if necessary as determined by site monitoring. The project will conclude on approximately 1 June 2006, with the Monroe County Land Steward providing a comprehensive final report to accompany the final invoice for cost reimbursement to the FDEP Bureau of Invasive Plants by 15 June 2006.